



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005

No. 137

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who dwells between the cherubim, You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the Earth. You have given the Members of America's legislative branch the opportunity to be the instruments of Your providence. Use them today for Your glory. Give them discernment to know the critical issues and the wisdom to do Your will. May their lives be exemplary models of integrity and civility as they strive to keep this Nation strong. May their words bring life and hope, knowledge and understanding.

And Lord, we pause to thank You for the life and legacy of Rosa Parks, a great civil rights pioneer. We ask that You would comfort those who mourn her death. You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they are sustained.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ISAKSON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we have allocated the first 30 minutes for a brief period of morning business. After that first half-hour period, we will return to the consideration of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. Chairman SPECTER and Senator HARKIN have started a process of lining up amendments to be considered. Last night we locked in a vote which will begin at 10:30 this morning. That vote will be on Senator SPECTER's amendment on Medicaid/Medicare centers for services.

I encourage Members who have amendments to the Labor-HHS bill to contact both managers as soon as possible. In order to ensure we finish the bill this week, we may have to file cloture at some point. We do not want to foreclose Members' rights to offer amendments. Thus, Senators should exercise their right to offer those amendments and do it now, come over this morning and over the course of the day. We will have multiple votes during today's session. Senators need to come to the floor promptly once a vote is called. As both the Democratic leader and I mentioned yesterday, we need

to be responsible in voting on time, and that is a courtesy to the rest of the Senate. But even more importantly, we have so much to do that we do need to run the place in a disciplined way. We will have our policy luncheons today from 12:30 to 2:15.

ROSA PARKS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, a few moments ago, during our opening prayer, the Chaplain mentioned Rosa Parks. I, too, want to take a moment to note the passing of one of America's extraordinary citizens, an activist, a champion of principle, a true hero, Rosa Parks.

All Americans should know Mrs. Parks' extraordinary story, how her refusal to give up a seat on that Montgomery, AL, bus led to a successful bus boycott and how that boycott ultimately led to the great and historic civil rights movement that remade our Nation. Ms. Parks defied an unjust, unfair, and unconstitutional law that declared African Americans second-class citizens. In so doing, she began a process that led to the historically important and vital 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Racism still exists in our society. Discrimination continues. But Rosa Parks' brave stand against an unjust law began a movement that set our society moving away from prejudice toward equality, toward a society where people are not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Rosa Parks' actions and the life she lived stand as a testament to the importance of principle and the power of a single individual to change the world. In the coming months, I hope that we in the Senate will look for other ways to honor Mrs. Parks' legacy and the principles for which she and her life stood.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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